GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6552
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
RISE IN DEFECIENCY OF SOIL NUTRIENT
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in deficiency of soil nutrients in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the regular intake of nutrient deficient foods/feeds by human/animals could create metabolic disorders in them;

(c) if so, the help provided by the Government to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation arising due to soil nutrient deficiencies?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The nutrient deficiencies in soil in many parts of the country are becoming evident in the wake of intensive cropping particularly in the Indo Gangetic Plains that result in depletion of nutrient elements from the soils at a rate more than their replenishment and low addition of organic matter. The nutrients are essential for plant growth and their deficiencies would cause reduction in crop yields and may result in malnutrition to animals and human beings.

(c) & (d): The Government is promoting `Integrated Nutrients Management, (INM) which includes soils test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers to supply Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, and Micronutrients in conjunction with organic fertilizers like farm yard manures, green manure, phospho compost, vermicompost, bio-fertilizers, etc. to overcome the deficiencies of soil nutrients.